

FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



LOCAL No. 36
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
of FIRE FIGHTERS



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June 4, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: PS Docket No. 07-8; CC Docket No. 94-102; WT Docket Nos. 03-264;
06150,06-169 and 96-86; EB Docket No. 06-119

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf the District of Columbia Fire Fighters Association, Local 36, I am writing to request your support and join the voice of many professional fire fighters calling for auction rules, which would establish a National Public Safety Broadband Network. With the upcoming 700 MHz auction, our nation has a unique opportunity to use a contiguous block of frequencies in the upper 700 MHz band to provide public safety with an advanced, nationwide communications network while harnessing the economic benefits of a shared public/private partnership with commercial wireless operators. Most important, for the first time, first responders will be in control of our communications network that will put us permanently where we belong - at the forefront of telecommunications innovation. America's first responders and others directly involved with protecting our homeland deserve nothing less as lives will depend on it.

The members of the District of Columbia Fire Fighters Association, Local 36 put our lives on the line every day as we respond to fire-related emergencies as well as car accidents, natural disasters, terrorist threats and a myriad other medical emergencies. We are the men and women who enter burning buildings and we are the men and women who place the safety of others before our very own. We are proud of what we do and operable communications is a critical tool that enables us to save lives and property.

The District of Columbia Fire Fighters Association, Local 36 joins the voice of other fire fighter organizations taking issue with those who would place commercial interests before the interests of public

safety. The auction of the 700 MHz spectrum block is public safety's last, best opportunity to achieve both operable and interoperable communications. We do not have sufficient spectrum and we do not have operable communications, let alone interoperable communications. As a nation we have stood by for far too long as our communications system failed our nation's first responders in their greatest time of need. The time has come to do what is right for public safety.

We respectfully request the FCC:

- License public safety's spectrum to a stand alone entity consisting of public safety leaders who will control the network and ensure it will be built to the standards of reliability and redundancy that public safety requires while also ensuring that the needs of local and regional stakeholders are understood
- Create and auction a 10MHz or larger "E Block" of the 700MHz band;
- Require the winner of the auction of this E Block to have a binding agreement with public safety for its participation in the National Public Safety Broadband Network before receiving their license;
- Support a public/private partnership and provide Public Safety with the ability to build-out in rural and underserved areas;
- Ensure that public safety in charge of the National Public Safety Broadband Network and not subordinate to the E Block auction winner as well as ensure that the National Public Safety Broadband Network stays competitive on the commercial side bringing the highest level of technology to public safety users;
- Ensure access to a satellite overlay to extend the reach of Public Safety's network;

Providing our nation's first responders with the same communications capabilities commercial customers have is of critical importance to the District of Columbia Fire Fighters Association, Local 36. Please do not allow this last, best opportunity to pass us by.

Sincerely,



Daniel Dugan
President

cc: The Honorable Michael J. Copps
The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein
The Honorable Deborah Tate
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell
Marlene H. Dortch, FCC Secretary